

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 13-30 are pending in the application, with claims 13 and 22 being the independent claims. Claims 13 and 22 are amended herein. No new claims are sought to be added. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Based on the above amendment and the following remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 13-21 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication 2006/0048977 to Akashima *et al.* (hereinafter "Akashima").

Independent claim 13 recites, *inter alia*, "the output shaft of the transmission casing and an input shaft of the gear casing are *arranged coaxially*." See paragraph [0057] and Fig. 4. This feature allows for vertical minimization of the transmission casing or the gear casing due to the coaxial arrangement of the output shaft of the transmission casing and the input shaft of the gear casing. Akashima does not disclose or suggest at least this feature. Akashima discloses that output shaft 38 and input shaft 148 are *arranged parallel to each other* with output shaft 38 on one line, while input shaft 148 is arranged *on a separate parallel line*. See Figs 10 and 20. Thus, Akashima does not disclose or suggest the output shaft of the transmission casing and an input shaft

of the gear casing are coaxially arranged, as claimed. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claim 13 and claims 14-21, which depend therefrom, are patentable over Akashima. Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. Allowance of claims 13-21 is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 22-30 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Akashima further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,089,824 to Nakatani (hereinafter "Nakatani").

Independent claim 22, as amended, recites, *inter alia*, "the output shaft of the transmission casing and an input shaft of the gear casing are arranged coaxially." Neither Akashima nor Nakatani disclose or suggest the claimed invention.

As discussed above, Akashima does not disclose or suggest the output shaft of the transmission casing and an input shaft of the gear casing are arranged coaxially. Further, Nakatani does not cure the deficiencies of Akashima. Nakatani does not appear to disclose or suggest the output shaft of the transmission casing and an input shaft of the gear casing are arranged coaxially. See Figs. 4 and 5. For at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter of claim 22 and claims 23-30, which depend therefrom, would not be *prima facie* obvious under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants respectfully request that the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn. Allowance of claims 22-30 is respectfully requested.

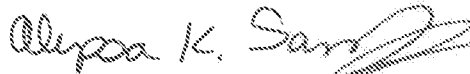
Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicants believe that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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